

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Prior to this response, claims 1-3, 9 and 11-14 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been amended. Claims 15 and 16 have been added. Claims 4-8 and 10 were previously canceled. Claims 2, 11 and 13 are canceled herein. Hence, claims 1, 3, 9, 12 and 14-16 remain pending.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-3, 9, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited portions of Larry Steven's "Simplifying Complex Project Management: Complex Projects at US West Benefit from AutoPlan II Project Management Software" (hereinafter "Steven") in view of the Project Management Institute's "A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge" (hereinafter "PMI").

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks herein is respectfully requested.

Amendments

Claims 1 and 9

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include various additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, and for example at figures 4, 5, 6 and 13, and also page 23, line 12 to page 26, line 25.

Claim 3

Claim 3 has been amended to include various additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, and for example at figures 15 and 17, and also page 31, line 8 to page 38, line 1.

Claims 15 and 16

Claims 15 and 16 have been newly added. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, and for example at page 26, lines 12 to 25.

Remarks

Claims 1 and 9

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected as being obvious over Steven in view of PMI. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 to include additional recitations believed not to be taught or suggested by Stevens and PMI, other otherwise shown to be known in the art at the time of the invention, and therefore respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

For example, claim 1 includes the recitation, “copying the selected works to define which works compose the project[.]” Claim 9 includes similar recitations. However, Steven instead discusses a user inputting tasks to fill a project. Steven, para. 10.

In another example, claim 1 includes the recitation, “defining, in a work relation definition table, relationships among respective work IDs of said project[.]” Claim 9 includes similar recitations. However, Steven instead discusses relating people and material resources to individual tasks within a project, but not relating different tasks to each other within a project. Steven, para. 11.

In yet another example, claim 1 includes the recitation, “preparing a work definition table which stores a work ID serially assigned for each of the works composing the project[.]” Claim 9 includes similar recitations. However, PMI instead discusses using a hierarchical structured identifying system. PMI, page 60. This is different because serially assigned numbers will not reflect a hierarchical structure.

In another example, claim 1 includes the recitation, "collecting the man powers and the progress degrees of the work IDs[.]" Claim 9 includes similar recitations. Applicant does not believe Steven shows such a recitation.

For at least all of the above reasons, not all of the recitations of claims 1 and 9 are taught or suggested by Steven and PMI. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that these two references do not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claims 1 and 9, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections of these claims.

Claim 3

Claim 3 stands rejected as being obvious over Steven in view of PMI. Applicant has amended claim 3 to include additional recitations believed not to be taught or suggested by Stevens and PMI, other otherwise shown to be known in the art at the time of the invention, and therefore respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 3 now includes the recitation, "setting a relation between the project and other accessible project and a relation between the project and an accessible document; and displaying information of the other project and the document, which are set accessible for a user belonging to the project." However Steven instead discusses using just passwords per users to determine security access abilities (Stevens, para. 20), not relations between differing projects as now recited in claim 3.

For at least all of the above reasons, not all of the recitations of claims 3 are taught or suggested by Steven and PMI. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that these two references do not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claim 3, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of this claim. Furthermore, claim 3 depends from claim 1, and is therefore also believed to be allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim.

Claims 12 and 14

Claims 12 and 14 stand rejected as being obvious over Steven in view of PMI. Claims 12 and 14 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1 or 9, and are

Appl. No. 10/025,121
Amdt. dated April 3, 2008
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 3623

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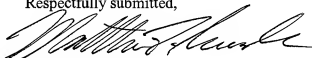
therefore believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew T. Sarles
Reg. No. 58,696

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
MTS:cmb
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